

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 03510 111934Z

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 SIL-01

ADP-00 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 RSR-01 /133 W

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R 111648Z JUL 73

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 368

INFO USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

UNCLAS GENEVA 3510

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG ILO

SUBJ: ILO - GENEVA PRESS REPORT OF ARAB AND AFRICAN RETALIATION
AGAINST ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL

REF: GENEVA 3219 (NOTAL)

1. GENEVA MORNING DAILY LA SUISSE CARRIED ARTICLE JULY 5
HEADLINED "ILO WILL NO LONGER BE INVITED TO ARAB AND AFRICAN
CONFERENCES." THE ARTICLE DATED CAIRO AND TRANSMITTED BY AGENCE
FRANCE PRESSE REFERRED TO AN ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MIDDLE EASTERN NEWS

AGENCY QUOTING MR. ABD EL-MOGHNI SAID SALAMA, HEAD OF THE EGYPTIAN
DELEGATION TO THE 58TH SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE
IN JUNE 1973. ACCORDING TO THE REPORT MR. SALAMA STATED THAT BECAUSE
OF DIRECTOR GENERAL JENKS' OPPOSITION AT THE RECENT ILO
CONFERENCE TO A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL, THE ILO WOULD NOT BE
INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONFERENCE OF ARAB LABOR
MINISTERS SCHEDULED FOR CASABLANCA IN OCTOBER NOR IN THE
CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS SCHEDULED FOR CONAKRY IN
MARCH 1974.

2. THE REPORT ALSO STATED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAQ HAD WITHDRAWN
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PAGE 02 GENEVA 03510 111934Z

AN EARLIER INVITATION TO MR. JENKS TO VISIT THAT COUNTRY.

3. COMMENT. THIS REPORTED MOVE BY THE ARABS TO EMBARRASS DG JENKS BY NOT INVITING HIM TO THEIR CASABLANCE CONFERENCE SQUARES WITH THEIR BOYCOTT OF THE LAST DAY AND A HALF OF THE ILO CONFERENCE AND THEIR DECLARATION OF NO CONFIDENCE IN THE DIRECTOR GENERAL. THE REPORTED THREAT OF NO INVITATION TO THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN CONAKRY IS MORE SURPRISING SINCE AFRICANS OTHER THAN THE ARABS WERE DIVIDED IN THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD MR. JENKS ON THE RESOLUTION AGAINST ISRAEL ISSUE. AFRICAN SOURCES IN GENEVA REPORTED NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY COLLECTIVE DECISION AMONG AFRICANS CONCERNING INVITATIONS TO THE ILO FOR THE CONAKRY CONFERENCE. IT IS SPECULATED BY SOME AFRICANS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA, WHICH WAS ALIGNED AGAINST MR. JENKS ON THE ISRAELI ISSUE, MAY HAVE ACTED ON ITS OWN AS HOST COUNTRY AND AUTHORIZED MR. SALAMA'S REFERENCE TO THE CONAKRY CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT AFRICAN DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MAY BE FAIRLY WIDESPREAD. THERE CONTINUE TO BE PERSISTENT UNCOMPLIMENTARY REFERENCES BY AFRICANS TO MR. JENKS' PERFORMANCE AT THE ADDIS ABABA AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN MAY. IF THE AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS DO REFUSE TO INVITE THE ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THEIR CONAKRY CONFERENCE THE SNUB MAY REFLCT A GREATER AFRICAN UNEASINESS WITH MR. JENKS THAN COULD BE INFERRED FROM THE DIVIDED AFRICAN REACTION TO HIS REMARKS ON THE RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL.BASSIN

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